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SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT 1. Chemapol Imports of Carborundum,
Asbestos, and Titanium Ore for 1953
2. Domestic Production of Carborundum

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

DATE ACQUIRED BY SOURCE [REDACTED]

DATE OF INFORMATION [REDACTED]

DATE DISTR. 30 Sept 53

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW) 25X1SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 25X1

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Chemapol AS planned to import 60 tn. of carborundum from Western Europe (Area V)

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[REDACTED] The carborundum was to be used for the pro- 25X1
duction of whetstones and other grinding and polishing materials.
Domestic production of carborundum was carried on at the United Works
for Production of Carborundum and Elektrit (Spojene zavody na vyrobu
karborunda a elektritu) at Benatky nad Jizerou /N 50-17, E 14-50/.
In 1949, carborundum was also produced, for urgent deliveries to the
USSR, in the Chemical Works in Sokolov /N 50-11, E 12-38/. However,
domestic production of carborundum was insufficient, and construction
of a new factory for carborundum production started in the Svitavy 25X1
/N 49-45, E 16-28/ region sometime in 1951. The chief of this con-
struction was Ing. BRODSKY (fnu), an employee of the Benatky Carborun-
dum Factory.

[REDACTED] It was intended that the production of
this new factory, together with the production of the Benatky Fact- 25X1
should satisfy all Czechoslovak needs for carborundum. so that no
further imports of carborundum should be necessary. [REDACTED] the
production of grinding materials of all kinds was behind schedule and
that large quantities of grinding materials were exported to the USSR,

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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2. Chemapol planned to import 2,150 tn. of asbestos for 1953. Of this total quantity, 200 tn. were to be imported from the USSR, 350 tn. from Western Europe

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Since 1945, Czechoslovakia has always tried to import as much as possible of the asbestos it requires from the USSR. However, the largest quantity of Soviet asbestos Czechoslovakia has been able to obtain was 1,000 tn., and this quantity was imported for the last time in 1950. The USSR still exported asbestos to the West. There were no domestic sources of asbestos in Czechoslovakia. Asbestos was used for production of fireproof materials, fireproof fabrics, and various technical necessities such as packing, which were used both in Czechoslovak domestic industry and for export.

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3. Chemapol planned to import about 5,090 tn. of titanium ore, mainly ilmenite, for 1953.

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This material was included in Item 394/403 in the Czechoslovak Customs Tariff. All of these imports were to be used in the production of titanium-dioxide in the chemical works in Hrusov (Ostrava). Titanium-dioxide was one of the pigments most in demand and was used in the production of paints and lacquers, for deadening of rayons, and in the leather, rubber, paper, and glass industries. Titanium-dioxide was also exported from Czechoslovakia. Czechoslovakia had no domestic sources of titanium ore and there was never any possibility of importing it from the other Eastern Bloc countries. In 1950, an attempt was made to replace ilmenite by Perovskit, a kind of titanium ore of Soviet origin. This proved unsatisfactory because Perovskit left an undesirable yellow shade on materials treated with it.

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